WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. The compound 2-(2-amino-1,6-dihydro-6-oxo-purin-9-yl)methoxy-3-
- 2 hydroxy-1-propanyl-L-valinate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the
- form of its (R)- or (S)-diastereomers, or in the form of mixtures of the two
- 4 diastereomers.
- 1 2. The compound according to Claim 1 comprising said mixture
- 2 containing equal amounts of its (R)- and (S)-diastereomers.
- 1 3. The compound according to Claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutically.
- 2 acceptable salt is the hydrochloride.
- 4. A compound according to Claim 1 in crystalline form.
- 5. The compound of Claim 1 which is (R)-2-(2-amino-1,6-dihydro-6-oxo-
- 2 purin-9-yl)methoxy-3-hydroxy-1-propanyl-L-valinate and its pharmaceutically
- 3 acceptable salts.
- 1 6. The compound of Claim 1 which is (S)-2-(2-amino-1,6-dihydro-6-oxo-
- 2 purin-9-yl)methoxy-3-hydroxy-1-propanyl-L-valinate and its pharmaceutically
- 3 acceptable salts.
- 7. A compound according to Claim 5 wherein said salt is the
- 2 hydrochloride.
- 8. A compound according to Claim 6 wherein said salt is the
- 2 hydrochloride.
- 9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to
- 2 Claim 1.
- 10. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 9 which includes a
- 2 pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier.
 - 11. The composition according to Claim 10 for intravenous administration.

- 12. The composition according to claim 10 for oral administration.
- 13. The composition according to claim 10 for topical administration.
- 1 14. The composition according to claim 10 in the form of an intravitreal implant.
- 1 15. A method of treating an animal afflicted with, or at risk for, a viral or related disease which method comprises administering a therapeutically acceptable amount of a compound of Claim 1 to said animal.
 - 16. The method of Claim 15 wherein the compound is administered orally.
- 1 17. The method of Claim 15 wherein the compound is administered topically.
- 1 18. The method of Claim 15 wherein the compound is administered as an intravitreal implant.
- 1 19. The method of Claim 15 wherein the compound is administered as the 2 form of an injection.

- 20. A process for preparing the compound 2-(2-amino-1,6-dihydro-6-oxo-purin-9-yl)methoxy-3-hydroxy-1-propanyl-L-valinate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or diastereomers thereof which process comprises:
- (a) removal of an amino- and/or hydroxy-protecting group from a compound with the formula

wherein:

P¹ is a hydroxy-protecting group or hydrogen, P² is an amino-protecting group, and P³ is hydrogen or P²; to afford the compound 2-(2-amino-1,6-dihydro-6-oxo-purin-9-yl)methoxy-3-hydroxy-1-propanyl- L-valinate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

- (b) conversion of the compound 2-(2-amino-1,6-dihydro-6-oxo-purin-9-yl)methoxy-3-hydroxy-1-propanyl-L-valinate into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;
- (c) esterification of 2-(2-amino-1,6-dihydro-6-oxo-purin-9-yl)methoxy-1,3-propanediol (ganciclovir) or a salt thereof, with an activated derivative of L-valine;

(d) condensation of an optionally substituted guanine of the formula

(IV)

22 optionally in persilylated form,

23 wherein:

P³ is hydrogen or an amino-protecting group, with an 2-substituted glycerol of the formula

$$V^2$$
 V^2 V^2

wherein:

- Y¹ and Y² independently are halo, lower acyloxy, lower alkyloxy, or aryl(lower)alkyloxy groups, and Z is a leaving group selected from lower acyloxy, methoxy, isopropyloxy, benzyloxy, halo, mesyloxy or tosyloxy; optionally in the presence of a Lewis acid catalyst, to provide the compound 2-(2-amino-1,6-dihydro-6-oxo-purin-9-yl)methoxy-3-hydroxy-1-propanyl-L-valinate; or
- (e) partial hydrolysis of the bis ester 2-(2-amino-1,6-dihydro-6-oxo-purin-9-yl)methoxy-1,3-propanediyl bis (L-valinate) or a salt thereof to afford the monoester 2-(2-amino-1,6-dihydro-6-oxo-purin-9-yl)methoxy-3-hydroxy-1-propanyl-L-valinate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or
- 38 (f) diastereomeric separation of 2-(2-amino-1,6-dihydro-6-oxo-purin-9-39 yl)methoxy-3-hydroxy-1-propanyl-L-valinate into its (R) and (S) diastereomers.
 - 21. The process of Claim 20, wherein the removal of amino- and hydroxyprotecting groups is carried out under acidic conditions.

22. A compound of the formula

- 3 wherein
- 4 P_1 is hydrogen or a hydroxy-protecting group and P_2 is an amino-protecting group.